

Phila. June 17th 1813

Dear Trumbull

I Am ashamed to have neglected you so long but it has been a stirring time with me, & letter writing is as much my detestation now, as it was my delight three years ago. I have been here in a whirl of excitement, and in very truth am very glad you didnt come to Philad: when you thought of doing so, for I could have paid you almost no attention. What with my daily drafting, your Davids sickness & profeseion of Christianif, and sisters marriage, I have been driven almost wild. Home full of people and noise, from 5 in the morning till 12 at night & that continued day after day for weeks, — crowds and carts in the street — friends hungry for calls and errands in any quantity to run or see run, I've had a most unpleasant time of it. But after all storms come Calms, the pleasure from contrast, and now I wish you were here. Especially as we are on the eve of sacrament & our "Rabbis" baptism. You have had a great time I assure you. Last evening — but I will begin at the beginning. I think I left you in Princeton. Well, Henry soon became dispirited & finally had an attack of bilious fever & applied to Dr. Alexander who scolded & physic'd him furiously. Mr. Hamilton kindly sent her carriage for him & attended to his wants in her own house. James Alex. wrote to Dr. Hodge, & I went up immediately & brought him, but as he rode to the City. He rapidly recovered, and soon after received peace in his soul & was accepted by the session & ordered to be baptised. Mr. Bokum inadvertently almost made this known to his Jewish uncle who at once flew to arms. The synagogues were in motion at once,

Henry was plied with menaces & entreaties. He was offered wealth, - education, - the honors of head rabbiship, if he would withdraw himself from Christian influence. He was told he was a prisoner & begged to be free; he answered he was free, & the religion of X, perpetual freedom. My prayers again & again the anguish of his parents, the disgrace of his families - his uncles wept before him - till he was rendered almost desperate, & walked his room like a hunted deer longing for covert. Opportunity had thus been freely & fairly given to Jews to try his faith. The limit was reached; further access to him was closed & he was sent into the County, till the time of his baptism, yesterday evening. Yesterday afternoon a writ of Habeas Corpus was served on Dr. Cuyler & Mr. Bokum, & the baptism deferred from County to the Court. His mind was again thrown into dark & filled with terror, as to the issue. This morning however the Court decided that he was at full liberty to profess X, or do what else he pleased, & tomorrow I hope all will be over & his hunted spirit will find the rest it pants for. "God works in a mysterious way," but all his ways are righteousness & truth. I have been astounded, in conversing with Henry, at the maturity of his Christian knowledge, the accuracy of his understandings, and the clearness of his views of right & wrong & of Christian duty. He talks & thinks like an old disciple. I was prepared for his conscientious scruples in little matters. His tendency to asceticism &c. &c. Although there are far less ^{or exaggerated} than I could have imagined; but I never expected to find in him that Lutheristic firmness (almost stubbornness) of purpose & strength of thought, which he so amply shows. I know you will rejoice with me, my dear fellow, in this happy state of things & harbor with me bright anticipations of that usefulness for which God

Lord seems to be fitting him. How miserably stupid - how
viciously cold I feel myself in the presence of this young
stranger made brother.

This letter will no doubt be handed you by my
new brother in law - Mr Stillwell. I wished you to have
the opportunity of shaking hands with dear sis. though
I fully expect you to see her at some future time at her
new home on the Mohawk, at Fort Plain, 50 miles
or so west of Albany. Try for a Boston.

I am much engaged, having entered into Contract
with the Surveyor for a year, to be paid if &c. -
I work (at sections, maps &c) 5 or 6 hours a day until I
go to Princeton. After that, I give 2 hours a day. So I
will have plenty to do, than as next year is an working
year, par excellence. My poor German lies dormant -
Hebrew ditto - French ditto - everything else ditto. -
Nothing is heard but scratch - scratch - scratching, perpendicular
line strokes, or double curves, on stick paper, under the intense
excitement of. you may imagine to be the result of the
working with a chance of recy no pay. But it's my
duty to do what I can to support myself, be busy &
trust to my heavenly Father for the rest. He has always
Cared for me & supplied all my wants & I know He
Always will. Help me, my dear friends, to praise Him
who is the strength of our souls & our salvation.

With respects to your father whom I greatly desire to
know, & to Mr Stillman who perhaps has forgotten me
I remain yours sincerely & affectionately - Peter.

Write me soon.

10/18

15 JUL 1843
NEW HAVEN

Forwarded *[Signature]*

22 1/2
Mr David Trumbull

~~Care of Mr B. Gilliman~~
Colchester

Politeness of Mr Gilmeil } New Haven Conn.

June 11. 1843

2557

Philad^a. April 25/43.

Dear Turnbull

The closer we examine into the subject the more firmly convinced will we become of the Certainty of the promise Commit thy ways unto the Lord & he will direct thy Steps. I came to the City exactly at the right time. One fruit of it was the acquaintance of the bearer of this, Mr David, a young German Jew, whom I offer to your sympathy & benevolence. I didn't know I was so soon to put your friendship to the test. You will pardon how lay me under your obligations if you will see as far as your convenience shall allow that this interesting stranger be not left to faze about Princeton in the dark. He carries a letter to Mr Martin wh. I hope will put him in immediate possession of the room I lately occupied & another to Mr. Harrington wh. will procure him a seat at her table, unless you think it to be expedient for him to obtain boarding elsewhere. He is as poor as the rest of us. I have become very much interested in him. His Assurance of the Messiaship of Christ is I think pretty firmly established. He prays like a Christian whose heart has been wrought upon by us. He has been out 5 months in this Country & you may have a difficulty in understanding his English, but hear with him for my sake. He would want to see much Company or to make many acquaintances for his mind is still in a very anxious Condition & he denies that he is yet a Christian. He of course bears letters to the professors for Dr Cuyler & Mr Bokum the aft of the 10th for the Amelioration of the condⁿ of the Jews.

I wish much to see you but certainly will not till the
Examination. I have providentially obtained business here, in
the Survey, wh. will occupy the entire summer & all my
leisure time (if ~~the~~ mention of your term not preposterous) next
session. Please tell Mr Willis, or Morgan, or Southwold, or
Rowell, all of whom are at Mrs Hamiltons that I cannot
now think of the school at Manchester. If you dont ^{either of} meet them
you may Mr Rogers (John) —

Remember me to Grady. — I find it almost im-
possible to study here. My throat is in a dreadful condition
just now; burns like a furnace — I am applying mustard.
I hope you are well & happy. Write me shortly. Tell
me too if you go regularly on from Romans to 1 Cor. & so on.
Very affectionately yours
Peter.

P.S. You may have heard that he has as a people has a nat-
ural failing, however stained — vanity or rather self-esteem. They think
their ways better than any other, their opinions more correct — &c &c —
You will observe this in some degree in your David. You know too how
destructive it is to the character of anybody to be made a lion
of. The most modest of beings stands a great chance of being ruined
by it. Don't then make too much of him. Don't let others if you
can help it. You will do me but too much the less an soul a favor
if you will in all cases & places make him throw his place.
I have given him a letter to Mahaffey & one to Rice. I wd be
glad if you will give them also this hint. Depend upon it any
man's pride it is necessary for the best of us to be kept low.

He has told me for instance in our reading of Acheen
together & referring to the Dictionary with what he often
falls out - that "the Dictionary was only a person"
very true - it's a thought that it wd be well for students
to have often. But it was a person a hundred times
more learned & competent than either he or I. I mean
from this to express my meaning & all.

Mr David Trumbull.

Mr White's Princeton.

Forwarded by Mr David.

25/5/43
Apr 25/43